

## Message Text

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72

ACTION DPW-01

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EA-06 SCA-01 L-01 H-01 PM-03

SP-02 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PRS-01 INR-05 CIAE-00 IO-03 /044 W

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R 041108Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2763

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 1545

LIMDIS

D/PW FOR HENDERSON

GENEVA FOR SIEVERTS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, CASC, LA

SUBJECT: VIENTIANE SIDE WORKING DOCUMENT ON DEAN/SHARMAN CASE

1. SECSTATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS TIANETHONE CHANTHARASY ON MARCH 4 GAVE AMBASSADOR COPY OF A DOCUMENT IN FRENCH ON DEAN/SHARMAN CASE WHICH HE HAD PREPARED ONE MONTH EARLIER (FEBRUARY 4) FOR INTERNAL DISCUSSION WITHIN VIENTIANE SIDE COORDINATING COMMITTEE.

2. DOCUMENT RECALLS A NUMBER OF DEVELOPMENTS SINCE DETENTION OF THE TWO YOUTHS LAST SEPTEMBER, INCLUDING AMBASSADOR'S REPRESENTATIONS AND "FORMAL EVIDENCE" WE HAVE FURNISHED FONMIN REGARDING WHEREABOUTS AND SIGHTINGS OF DEAN/SHARMAN BY LAO CITIZENS; LPF DENIAL (PRESUMABLY DECEMBER 23 LETTER TO EMBASSY FROM LPF REPRESENTATION) OF KNOWLEDGE OF DEAN/SHARMAN WHEREABOUTS; FONMIN PHOUMI'S TRANSMITTAL OF COPIES OF AMBASSADOR'S LETTERS TO SAM NEUA AND TO PRINCE SOUPHANOUVONG; INITIAL USG POSTURE (AS REPORTED BY LAO AMBASSADOR KHAMPHAN PANYA AND HOWARD DEAN) OF WAITING PATIENTLY FOR CHARLES DEAN'S RELEASE AND PREVENTING DEAN/SHARMAN DETENTION FROM ATTRACTING UNDUE PUBLICITY AND THEREBY BECOMING CONFIDENTIAL

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MAJOR EVENT AND OBSTACLE TO GOOD USG-PGNU RELATIONS; ASSISTANT

SECRETARY HABIB'S NOTIFICATION TO LAO AMBASSADOR THAT USG COULD NO LONGER WAIT PATIENTLY AFTER BEING TOLD THAT DEAN WAS NOT IN LPF HANDS; AND FONMIN PHOUMI'S INDICATION TO TIANETHONE THAT SAM NEUA HAD CONDUCTED INVESTIGATION INTO CASE IN AREA OF PAK KADING.

3. IN HIS PAPER TIANETHONE THEN WROTE THAT HE DID NOT WISH TO SPECULATE ON LPF INTENTIONS IN THE CASE BUT WISHED TO CALL TO ATTENTION OF HIS VIENTIANE SIDE CABINET COLLEAGUES THAT, IF THE US REQUEST FOR LIBERATION OF CHARLES DEAN REMAINED UNANSWERED, THERE WOULD INEVITABLY BE PREJUDICIAL CONSEQUENCES FOR RELATIONS OF UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENT.

4. IN AMPLIFICATION OF THIS STATEMENT, TIANETHONE'S PAPER CITED FOLLOWING REASONS:

A. HOWARD DEAN IS A CLOSE FRIEND OF TREASURY SECRETARY SIMON AND HAS TIES WITH SENIOR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS; IN THE ABSENCE OF RESULTS, MR. DEAN WOULD BE LIKELY TO TRY TO STIMULATE ACTION BY (SECOUER) THE WHITE HOUSE AND BY CONGRESS;

B. LAOS MIGHT SUFFER A LOSS OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AS A RESULT OF ANNOYANCE ON PART OF ADMINISTRATION AND ILL WILL IN CONGRESS;

C. USG HAS ALWAYS DEFENDED ITS CITIZENS VIGOROUSLY AND TENACIOUSLY, WHETHER ONE OR MANY CITIZENS WERE INVOLVED;

D. NEW YORK TIMES HAS TAKEN UP THE CASE, AND THE NEWSPAPER, BECAUSE OF ITS INFLUENCE NOT ONLY IN THE U.S. BUT THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, COULD MAGNIFY THE CASE AND AROUSE PUBLIC OPINION.

5. TIANETHONE'S BRIEF CONCLUDED WITH REITERATION THAT LPF ATTITUDE COULD BE DAMAGING TO LAO-US RELATIONS AND STATEMENT THAT HE WAS SUBMITTING QUESTION FOR "DECISION" BY VIENTIANE SIDE.

6. TIANETHONE TOLD AMBASSADOR HE SUSPECTED PATHET LAO HOPED THAT THIS CASE WOULD RESULT IN REDUCED AID TO LAOS AS A MEANS OF FURTHERING THEIR AMBITIONS. HE EXPRESSED HIS GRATITUDE FOR THE PATIENCE WE HAVE SHOWN AND EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT IT WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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IMPORTANT TO MAINTAIN A SITUATION WHICH PERMITS THE PATHET LAO TO PRODUCE THE BOYS WITHOUT LOSS OF FACE. HE SAID HE WOULD DISCUSS THE CASE WITH THE VIENTIANE SIDE WITH A VIEW TO HAVING IT DISCUSSED CALMLY AT THE NEXT CABINET MEETING. THE CABINET WOULD INDUBITABLY REFER THE PROBLEM TO THE JOINT CENTRAL COMMISSION TO IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENT (JCCIA).

7. THE AMBASSADOR AGREED WITH TIANETHONE'S PROPOSED PLAN AND

URGED THAT THE JCCIA BE PRESSED TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION.  
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Authority:** MartinML  
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